



AAEP Statement Regarding the Use of Race-Day Medication in Horse Racing

The American Association of Equine Practitioners was founded more than fifty years ago by 11 racetrack veterinarians. This long history of commitment to the racing industry makes the AAEP uniquely qualified to speak to the issues affecting the health and welfare of the racehorse, including the administration of therapeutic medication.

Our position on race-day medication is long-standing: The AAEP supports the use of furosemide, or Salix, as the only medication administered to a horse on the day of the race with the specific purpose of treating exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage. The administration of Salix should be administered in accordance with the guidelines set by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. We do not support the use of adjunct bleeder medications on race day.

The AAEP also supports the administration of Salix by regulatory veterinarians in a controlled environment to ensure the integrity of racing and the safety of each individual horse.

The third component of race-day medication is race-day security. Appropriate security measures must be in place at all racetracks to enforce medication administration rules and ensure that all involved in the sport of horse racing are participating on a level playing field.

The AAEP understands the concerns of those who feel the use of Salix on race day compromises the integrity of the sport, and we know the integrity of the game is vital to horse racing's success. At the same time, as doctors of veterinary medicine, the safety and health of the racehorse remains our primary focus. The racing industry must find a way to manage exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage and regulate the process in a manner that is both good for the horse and good for racing.

As the race-day medication debate continues, the hope of the AAEP is that the industry's ultimate conclusions on race-day medication are based on objective and factual information. I appreciate the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's invitation to speak today and your thoughtful consideration of this issue.